Blooody news from

Hampſhire,

OR,

The Inhumane Husband, andmoſt barbarous Father.

Being a Full and true

RELATION,

How a perſon there cut his Wives throat on *Wedneſday* the 8th of *September* laſt paſt, and the next day knockt his own Sons brains out.

With an Account of the Covetous and wicked Deſign that Inſtigated him to theſe Gruel Acts, and the wonderful hand of God in diſcovering them.

He and a bad woman that he kept Company with (ſuppoſed to be his Confederate) being now both in Priſon.

With Allowance.

Printed in the Year, 1675.

The two moſt inhumane Murthers in *Hampſhire*: Or, A full Account of the man that killed his Wife and his Son.

I Shall not nauſeat the Reader with a tedious and perhaps threadbare preamble of the frequency or horrid guilt of Murther; let it therefore (to awake his attention) ſuffice to ſay, that the ſad and tragical Relation I am here to give him, is no leſs remarkable for it's certainty than it's bloudy Cruelty, and as moſt barbarous, ſo moſt true, violating no only the Laws of God and man, but thoſe of Nature too, with the higheſt aggravations Imaginable.

The perſon that did theſe Inhumane Acts lived lately at a place on the edge of *Wiltſhire*, or ſcituate

ordering both on that Shire and the County of *Southamptom*, by profeſſion a Husbandman (and ſo, (without reflection on my Country friends let it be ſaid) was the *firſt Murtherer* in the world) his condition in the world had been but mean, Inſomuch that being married, after his wife and he had lived ſome ſhort time together, what by poverty on the one ſide, and continuall diſcontents and falling out (chiefly occaſioned by his ill humours) on the other, they were forced to part, and he went again to ſervice, allowing her only ſome ſmal pittance out of his wages towards the maintenance of herſelf and a child that ſhe had by him, which was the Boy now Murthered by his barbe-rous hands.

He was naturally Laborions and Induſtrious and for that reaſon had the commendation of a very good Servant all along from his Maſter and Dame, yet he often kept company with and reſorted to a womans houſe that lived hard by, (his wives dwelliug beind ſix miles off) and what familiarity they might have I cannot ſay: But it's geueral y thought and concluded, that the fellow being very coveteous, and this neighbouring woman whom I mentioned but now having five or ſix ponnds a year Land of her own, He had a mind to marry her to make himſelf maſter of what ſhe had, but then conſidering his own wife was living, ſpoild all his hopes. And therefore after a long debate between the devil and his own wicked heart thy clap up a bargain to diſpatch the poor wretch out of the world. Here

Here we may ſee how that ever-buſy Tempter plants his ſnares, by what degrees he proceeds to to ruine a Soul, and how he makes one ſin a ſtair to mount us to a ſtreater, Luſt and Coveteouſneſs ſit now brooding in this fellowes breaſt, by and by by you ſhall them hatch a couple of Barbarious and Inhumane Murthers, for having for a long time reſolved this black deſigne in his thoughts ſometimes his conſcience ſtertled at the horrour of it, which made him conſider of ſome milder expedient, and therefore hearing of a woman that had a Daughter in *Virginia*, and had directed ſeveral thither that had a mind to go, he and his wife (for ſo we hope a plowmans wench may be called) repaired thither and treated with her about his wife and ſon going to *Virginia* alledging they were willing, whereupon ſometime after the woman went to the wives dwelling (whom he had before accquainted with the buſiueſs, alledging many fair arguments to perſwade her to it) anddered to know her mind but ſhe ſeeming wholy averſe and unwilling to embrace any ſuch motion, the little Boy (as if endued with a Prophetick Genius) cryed out, for Gods ſake Mother do go, for if you do not my Father will kill us both.

Which words were ſoon after too ſadly verified for the fellow ſeeing himſelf fruſtrated in his tranſportation project, and conſequently of marrying his more pleaſing and landed ſhe-friend, reſolved to put his former deſign in execution, and ſince his

Wife

Wife would not leave the Nation, ſhe ſhould be diſpatcht out of the world, full of theſe bloudy thoughts, on Tueſday the Seventh of *September* laſt he repaired to the place of her dwelling, and lay with her all night, ſhewing himſelf extraordinary kind to her, which made the poor woman wonderful glad, having ſeldom ſeen him in ſo good an humour, I mean as to appearance, before.

Next day he took notice of an Infirmity which ſhe had been troubled with being a kind of deafneſs or hardneſs of hearing, and told her he would cary her to a Doctor to cure her of it, the Innocent well-meannig woman not the leaſt ſuſpecting his Villany, was very free and willing to go along with him; But having got into a private place in the fields he ſet upon her with Violence, and moſt Barbarouſly Murthered her, cutting her Throat and giving her two or three great wounds beſides, and then hid the Body a pretty ſpace out of the way amongſt the Buſhes.

What became of him after he committed this horid Act, or where he ſpent the reſt of the day and the night following, is not certainly known, though it be generally ſuppoſed, that the before mentioned woman that he kept company with, might be his confederate, and that he might go thither to tell her that the work was done: But whether ſhe adviſed him, or he might afterwards think himſelf not ſafe as long as the Boy lived, who might tell the people that he went out with his Mother (for the Child was eight or nine years old

old or more) or whether he thought he would be a charge to him, or what other fancy the Divil put in his head, I cannot say, but the next day being *Thurſday* he came again to the little houſe, where his Wife whilſt living dwelt, and there finds his Boy having almoſt cry'd his Eyes out, becauſe his Mother did not come home; whereupon this cruell deſſembling wretch tels him, he would carry him to his Mother, and did indeed lead him ſome part of the way towards the place where the dead body lay, yet undiſcovered: but then 'tis thought being terrified with guilt, he turned another way, but not from his deviliſh purpoſe, for having traind the Child to a loneſome place, fit as the Devil ſuggeſted for his purpoſe, on the ſide of a large pond, neither the Innocency of his years, nor the ties of Nature, nor the pity of Humanity, could reſtrain his Inhumain hands from Butchering his only Child, which he did by knocking his brains out with a Club, and then flinging his Body into the ſaid Pond. And now this Barbarous Bloudy man has done his task which the devil ſet him, and vainly thinks himſelf ſecure, bnt therein he is deceived for Divine Juſtice would not ſuffer ſuch abominable acts to go long undiſcovered and unpuniſht: much wonder and diſcourſe there was among the neighbours what ſhould be become of this woman and her Child, on the *Wedneſday* the Child had told, That his Mother was gone abroad with his Father, and on the *Thurſday* the Child and he was ſeen go out together, but they thought

it

very strange where they should stay so long. But that admiration was put by with a greater, when on the *Saturday* following, a Farmer walking about his grounds discovered by Accident the dead body of the Woman murthered, as before related, who should do such an Execrable deed none could certainly say, but all held it reasonable to suspect her Husband, which was increased, when upon enquiry they found he had not been at his Masters since, but had been seen at the beforementioned womans house, whose company it was proved he had long frequented, a Lad that he lay with, testifying that he frequently used to go out at nights and stay there all night, and return early enough to his work next morning, not to be perceiv'd by his Master: And accordingly going to this womans habitation the Officers Seized him just going in at the Door, at the first he denyed the Fact in words, though his trembling and consternation spoke him guilty, as he himself upon hearing what Circumstances and Evidence there was against him, openly Confessed, and withall discovered the Murther of his Child and where he he had disposed it, which upon Search, was found, he would not acknowledge that his Friend the Woman was concern'd, but there being so many violent Presumptions to conclude Her Accessary, they were both committed. Where we leave them to expect Just Punishment according to their Deserts.

FINIS.